COMMENT ON THE NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULEMAKING "RESTORING INTERNET FREEDOM" (WC DOCKET NO. 17-108)

As determined by the Circuit Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia in the 2014 case of *Verizon v. Federal Communications Commission* (No. 11-1355), the Federal Communications Commission can only establish anti-blocking and anti-discrimination rules on Internet Service Providers if such service providers are regulated as common carriers, as defined by Title II of the *Communications Act of 1934* (47 U.S.C. § 201 *et seq.*). 80 FR 19737, which reclassifies Internet Service Providers as common carriers, stands as the backbone of the free and open Internet. Removing Internet Service Providers' classification as common carriers would limit the Federal Communication Commission's ability to regulate Internet Services, most notably removing anti-throttling and anti-blocking regulations. This is detrimental to consumers, as well as to the free market as a whole.

As of current, the Internet is an open frontier; all information available on the Internet is accessible to anyone who wishes to access it. This allows for mass dissemination of information, equal opportunity for new businesses, and the incentive to continually innovate. The Federal Communications Commission's current classification of Internet Service Providers as common carriers maintains the Internet as such.

Under this proposed Rule, the Federal Communications Commission would, to a large degree, lose the ability to regulate Internet Service Providers. This loss would allow ISPs to throttle connections to certain websites, block access to certain websites, create so-called "fast lanes" in which connection speeds to specific websites could be monetized, and hinder the general public's ability to access the entirety of the World Wide Web.

It is for this reason that I, as both a consumer and a web developer, strongly oppose the rule at WC Docket No. 17-108.

Respectfully Submitted,

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